

FIRST 5 COMMISSION OF SAN DIEGO
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Commissioners Present:

Greg Cox, Chairman
Ken Colling, Vice Chairman
Dr. Nora Faine, Secretary
Dr. Rodger Lum
Dr. Nancy Bowen

Staff Present:

Laura Spiegel, Executive Director
Denis McGee
Grace Young
Kim Frink
Rick Collantes
Susan Morgan
Amie Meegan
David Smith, Deputy County Counsel
Patty Kay Danon, District 1

Minutes for May 5, 2003

1. Call to Order

Chairman Cox called the meeting of the First 5 Commission of San Diego to order at 2:05 p.m.

2. Opportunity for Public Comments

Marilu Lopez and Kati Enright, Developmental Screening Coordinators for Children's Care Connection (C3) both addressed the Commission, Ms. Lopez in Spanish and Ms. Enright in English. They spoke about the current limited age range for developmental screening of 18 to 36 months. They believe that because school readiness is on a continuum from birth to five, screenings would be beneficial for all of those ages. By limiting the age range, the children below 18 months and over 36 months old are being missed. They urged the Commission to reconsider going back to the original screening age requirements of 0 to 5 granted to the Prop 10 programs.

Monica O'Hara from the National City Public Library, the home of the Words on Wheel (WOW) Mobile addressed the Commission. The WOW Mobile travels through the neighborhood in National City to bring family literacy and the opportunity to check out books and other library materials to those families who cannot make it to the library. She thanked the Commission for supporting the WOW Mobile for the last two years. She also invited everyone to attend a literacy celebration on May 17, 2003, a twice-a-year event where 4,000 children and parents come to celebrate literacy in a big way. Free books are given away to children from birth to 12th grade.

Carmen Spurling, Deputy Director of Labors Community Service Agency (LCSA) addressed the Commission on behalf of their Executive Director, Isabelle Perez. LCSA was on the waiting list from the last grant cycle but was informed by the Commission two weeks ago that they would not be funded because all funds were expended. She strongly advocates that those grantees that were found eligible and put on the waiting list from the last grant cycle be considered in the next grant cycle due to the fact that they duly competed and were found worthy of being funded. Their program goals and objectives are still consistent with the newly adopted Strategic Plan of the Commission for Fiscal Years 2003-2006. She reported that their program has proven to be successful with results showing that children who received their services enter Head Start with a demonstrated 75% school readiness level. She urged the Commission not to re-invent the wheel and act favorably to consider LCSA in the upcoming allocation.

3. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes - April 7, 2003

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Colling, seconded by Commissioner Faine, the Commission approved the minutes of April 7, 2003.

AYES:	Cox, Colling, Faine, Lum, Bowen
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

NOES: None

4. Formation of Consent Calendar

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Colling, seconded by Commissioner Bowen, the Commission approved the formation of the Consent Calendar, with Items 7 and 8 being pulled by the public and Items 10 and 11 being pulled by the Commissioners. The remaining items were approved per staff recommendation.

AYES: Cox, Colling, Faine, Lum, Bowen
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
NOES: None

5. State/Staff Report

Commissioner Colling reported that he, TPAC member Lorraine Puckett and staff member Kim Frink attended the Statewide Prop 10 Conference and served as panelists at a workshop sponsored by the Civic Engagement Project. He stated that the attendees were very impressed by what is being done in San Diego and liked the idea of having a Civic Engagement Leadership Team to put the importance and emphasis on community efforts. Executive Director Spiegel thanked Commissioner Colling for giving up a couple of days to be a part of the Statewide Conference.

The Commission received the State/Staff Report, on Consent. No action was taken on this item as it was for information purposes only.

6. TPAC Report

The Commission received the report of the April 21, 2003 TPAC meeting, on Consent.

7. Allocation Plan for Fiscal Year 2003-2004

Executive Director Spiegel stated that what is being brought for approval today is the framework for the budget, not the release of funds. She indicated that Commission staff has taken into consideration Chairman Cox's comments in last month's meeting regarding planning and coordination studies and the breakdown of the annual administrative expenses and that necessary adjustments have been made. With regard to the Americorps/Vista in-depth review to ensure that this is still an appropriate program for the Commission, Commission staff has brought this issue to TPAC as well as other resource people and has not identified a method comparable to Americorps. Staff will continue to do an in-depth review and return to the Commission with its findings at a later date.

Commissioner Bowen stated that although she was very impressed with all the work that has gone on with the Kit for New Parents, she is still hesitant to spend another \$500,000 for its local adaptation because of the budget cuts across the State. Staff member McGee responded that Commission staff will be recommending options on various levels of adaptation at the next Commission meeting, one option being no adaptation at all.

Commissioner Lum appreciated the breakdown of the administrative expenses into the four categories. However, he requested that a further breakdown of how much relates to services versus supplies under the general administration and evaluation be done as well.

Marena Keys who has been working in the field of early childhood development as a preschool teacher, thanked the Commission for the San Diego CARES program. The program has encouraged her to go back to school and apply the teachings that she has learned to her class. She spoke of an instance where she observed a 3-year old girl having little language skills. She recommended to the mother that the child be evaluated. The mother hesitated at first but took her advice, had the child evaluated and immediately started her in a speech program in the school district. Later on, she received a thank you letter from the mother saying that child is mainstreaming into a regular kindergarten class next school year.

Elena Parmenter, a new parent of a five-month old baby, shared a testimonial on how the Kit for New Parents was important to her family. Two days after she had the baby, the nurse handed her the baby and wished her luck. The Kit that she received while pregnant prepared her for what was ahead. She learned about car seat safety, safety

around the home, ways to stimulate early learning from birth to age 5, etc. She watched the videos with her husband and mother, which gave helpful information to a new parent like her.

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Colling, seconded by Commissioner Bowen, the Commission approved the First 5 Commission of San Diego's Allocation Plan for Fiscal Year 2003-04.

AYES:	Cox, Colling, Faine, Lum, Bowen
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
NOES:	None

8. Planning and Coordination Studies - 2003-2006 Implementation Plan

Staff member Frink stated that the overall goal of these planning and coordination efforts is to provide the Commission with recommendations for future funding, advocacy and strategies that are research based and targeted to local needs. With these studies, the Commission will be focusing on ensuring that the contractors build upon existing studies available rather than reinventing the wheel. Commissioner Colling mentioned that the funds allocated for these studies have been drastically reduced. Commissioner Bowen pointed out that the logic behind the difference in amounts among the three areas was that health encompasses such a huge array of different issues compared to pre-literacy and behavioral health.

Dr. Betty Bassoff, a consultant to health and human services community, spoke to the Commission about the pre-literacy issue. She attended the two-day universal preschool conference sponsored by the State Commission in Orange County and feels that it is time for the Commission to begin looking seriously at universal preschool for all children in the county. She suggested incorporating the concept of universal preschool into the pre-literacy section of the Commission's future planning. She stated that universal preschool is synonymous to school readiness but is a poorly understood concept publicly. She sees the Commission playing a very strong role in giving the community the information it needs in beginning to mobilize both the professional and non-professional sectors around a plan for San Diego county.

Robin Layton of Educational Enrichment Systems, an organization providing childcare programs for low income, working poor families from birth to 5, addressed the Commission. She also had the pleasure of attending the universal preschool conference in Orange County. She is very excited that the State Commission is putting funding priority on universal preschool or what they are now calling, "preschool for all". She was happy to hear that, with the help of kindergarten teachers, children entering kindergarten are now being interviewed and evaluated. Results are now coming in that children with school readiness experience were ready for kindergarten and those that did not have the experience were not ready. She is hoping that the Commission will look at these results and plan future funding into "preschool for all" for children in San Diego County.

Commissioner Lum asked if there was a central repository for the planning and coordination studies being done by any of the 58 county commissions that other commissions can build on, act on, or to share local findings. Staff member Frink responded that she was not aware of any central repository. However, Commission staff has started collecting some of the research papers/white papers that have been done across the state and that staff can work with the State Association to locate some of the studies that have been done by other commissions. Commissioner Lum suggested that the State Commission takes a bird's eye view of what all the counties are doing and identify the most promising and best practices in the 0 to 5 arena so the Commission can consider those that are not being done locally for future funding possibilities.

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Bowen, seconded by Commissioner Colling, the Commission directed the Executive Director to develop scopes of work for each of the three planning efforts and to return to the Commission in June for approval.

AYES:	Cox, Colling, Faine, Lum, Bowen
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
NOES:	None

9. Sunset Review of Commission Policy

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Colling, seconded by Commissioner Bowen, the Commission, on Consent, approved the extension of Commission Policy CFC-008, "Executive Director Signatory Authority" until May 2005 for its next Sunset Review and changed references to the Children and Families Commission in the Policy to First 5 Commission of San Diego.

AYES: Cox, Colling, Faine, Lum, Bowen
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
NOES: None

10. Grant Application Number 20055 Renewals

In response to Commissioner Bowen's query, staff member Young stated that the Commission has received two quarterly reports from all eight grantees and 3rd quarterly reports have started to come in. Commissioner Bowen commented that these grants should only be renewed based on good performance as documented in the three quarterly reports and site visits of all of them.

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Colling, seconded by Commissioner Faine, the Commission authorized the Executive Director to negotiate and execute one-year extensions at the first year funding level, plus a four percent cost-of-living adjustment based on personnel costs only, with the eight grantees.

AYES: Cox, Colling, Faine, Lum, Bowen
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
NOES: None

11. Grant Application Number 20133 Renewals

Staff member McGee stated that these grants are not being renewed at this time. The approval of this item will allow the Commission to encumber this funding and carry it over into the next fiscal year. Commissioner Bowen reiterated the need to have all site visits done and three quarter reports received documenting that goals and objectives are being met before renewing these grants. In the same token, Commissioner Lum commented that most of these grantees are newer, smaller grass roots organizations that should be given every opportunity to succeed. If initial reports show that they are not performing as expected, they should be provided with technical assistance to help them succeed. Staff member Young stated that this group of grantees is very diverse and Commission staff is in fact providing more technical assistance to smaller and newer grantees to help them become successful.

In response to Commissioner Faine's inquiry about the process of reviewing performance against goals, staff member McGee stated that Commission staff has an evaluation manager who reviews the quarterly reports. If discrepancies or red flags are noted, a committee of staff is convened to go over the reports and come up with an appropriate course of action.

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Colling, seconded by Commissioner Faine, the Commission authorized the Executive Director to negotiate and execute one-year extensions at the first year funding level, plus a four percent cost-of-living adjustment based on personnel costs only, with the forty-one grantees.

AYES: Cox, Colling, Faine, Lum, Bowen
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
NOES: None

12. Literacy Guide Printing

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Colling, seconded by Commissioner Bowen, the Commission, on Consent, authorized the expenditure of up to \$40,000 for printing 22,500 copies of the Commission's Literacy Resource Guide and promotional materials.

AYES:	Cox, Colling, Faine, Lum, Bowen
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
NOES:	None

13. Commission Updates

The Commission received the status report on the results obtained from the Implementation and Allocation Plan for January 2001 through June 30, 2003, a calendar of community engagement activities for May and June 2003 and an updated summary listing of relevant bills introduced into the 2002 and 2003 legislative sessions, including bills signed by the Governor and Chaptered into law, on Consent. No action was taken on this item as it was for information purposes only.

14. Future Agenda Items

Items to be discussed at subsequent Commission meetings include:

- Technical & Professional Advisory Committee Members for Fiscal Year 2003-04
- Sunset Review of Commission Policy CFC-003, "Grant Funding Process"
- Approval of Innovative Grant Funding Process Policy
- Fiscal Year 2003-04 Line Item Budget
- Contract Renewals of San Diego CARES and Kit for New Parents
- Americorps Program
- School Readiness Funding

15. Adjournment

Two short videos were shown. The first one was developed as part of a community outreach video tool kit that was put together by the Civic Engagement Project to help communities. This video highlights some of the community leaders across the eight counties involved in the Project and can be used to facilitate community conversations around community leadership and community engagement. TPAC member Lorraine Puckett was chosen to be a part of this video. The second video was about the commercials that First 5 California is showing across the State for their spring 2003 media campaign.

In anticipation of the budget cuts that may or may not have an impact on the Commission, Chairman Cox called for an unscheduled meeting on July 7, 2003. He adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m. to reconvene on June 2, 2003.

Notes by Meegan

Respectfully submitted for your review and approval:

Dr. Nora Faine, Secretary

Date